

13. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [12] ~~52~~ wherein said [support arms, said lattice, and said screen are] grille is molded in a monolithic unit.

14. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [12] ~~52~~ wherein [are formed a plurality of tooth-shaped] said screens [and each said screen is] are formed parallel to [the] each other.

28. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [27] ~~53~~ wherein said [support arms, said lattice, and said screen are] grille is molded in a monolithic unit.

29. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [27] ~~53~~ wherein [are formed a plurality of tooth-shaped screens and each] said screens [is] are formed parallel to [the] each other.

42. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [41] ~~54~~ wherein said [support arms, said lattice, and said screen are] grille is molded in a monolithic unit.

43. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim [41] ~~54~~ wherein [are formed a plurality of tooth-shaped screens, each] said screens are formed parallel to the other.

46. (Amended) A method of draining a portion of the water from an aquarium tank having a tank floor covered with gravel to a predetermined depth and with it the sediment and impurities that have gathered with the gravel in the bottom of the tank comprising the

1 steps of:

2 a) providing a flexible hose having first and second
3 opposite ends;

4 b) providing a tube having upper and lower distal
5 ends and connecting said upper distal end thereof to said
6 first end of said elongated flexible hose;

7 c) providing a [tooth-shaped] grille defined by a
8 plurality of three-dimensional tooth-shaped lattices and
9 screens covering said lattices, said screens having
10 apertures formed therethrough [chamber whose walls are
11 perforated by apertures that are] of a size to allow
12 passage therethrough of water, sediment and impurities but
13 not gravel, and connecting [it] said grille to said lower
14 distal end of said tube;

15 d) immersing said [lower distal] tube [end of said
16 tube] and said grille into the aquarium tank such that
17 said grille may be placed [adjacent] in contact with the
18 gravel at the bottom of the aquarium tank,

19 e) creating a flow of water from the tank through
20 said [perforations] apertures into said grille, said tube,
21 and said flexible hose to drain water, sediment and
22 impurities therethrough;

23 f) moving said grille about the gravel at the bottom
24 of the aquarium tank such that the gravel particles are
25 forced by said movement to bump and rub against each
26 other, outside said tube, to dislodge the sediment and
27 impurities that have gathered therewith; and,

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g). discharging said water, sediment and impurities
from the aquarium tank [to a drain].

52. (New) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling
an aquarium tank having a floor covered with gravel to a predeter-
mined depth comprising:

a) an elongated flexible hose having first and
second opposite ends;

b) a tube including an upper distal end for connec-
tion to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower
distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank
such that said lower end may be placed near the gravel;

c) a first means attachable to said second end of
said flexible hose and for connection to a flowing water
source for creating a continuous flow of water from the
tank through said tube and said flexible hose;

d) a grille, covering said lower distal end of said
tube, and including a chamber surrounded by three-dimen-
sional tooth-shaped lattices having screens covering said
lattices, said screens having a plurality of apertures
formed therethrough that are narrower than the width of
the gravel particles covering the floor of the aquarium,
said grille arranged for contact with the gravel for
moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that
the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump
and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge
the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith,
and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said

1 water flow through said apertures into said chamber, up
2 said tube and through said hose for discard without the
3 entrance of gravel into said tube or hose; and,

4 e) wherein at least one of said lattices being of
5 a height greater than the depth of the floor-covering
6 gravel so as to always present a portion of said apertured
7 screen to the aquarium water above the gravel to allow a
8 continuous flow of water into said tube to sweep the
9 debris, that passes into said tube through said apertures,
10 out of the aquarium.
11

12 53. (New) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling
13 an aquarium tank having a tank floor covered with gravel to a
14 predetermined depth comprising:

15 a) an elongated flexible hose having first and
16 second opposite ends;

17 b) a tube including an upper distal end for connec-
18 tion to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower
19 distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank
20 such that said lower end may be placed near the gravel,
21 said hose and said tube of such length to allow said
22 second flexible hose end to be placed below the level of
23 water in the tank and a partial vacuum to be started to
24 create a natural siphon action to create a flow of water
25 from the tank through said tube and through said flexible
26 hose;

27 c) a grille, covering said lower distal end of said
28 tube, and including a chamber surrounded by three-dimen-

1 signal tooth-shaped lattices having screens covering said
2 lattices, said screens having a plurality of apertures
3 formed therethrough that are narrower than the width of
4 the gravel particles covering the floor of the aquarium,
5 said grille arranged for contact with the gravel for
6 moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that
7 the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump
8 and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge
9 the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith,
10 and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said
11 water flow through said apertures into said chamber, up
12 said tube and through said hose for discard without the
13 entrance of gravel into said tube or hose; and,

14 d) wherein at least one of said lattices being of
15 a height greater than the depth of the floor-covering
16 gravel so as to always present a portion of said apertured
17 screen to the aquarium water above the gravel to allow a
18 continuous flow of water into said tube to sweep the
19 debris, that passes into said tube through said apertures,
20 out of the aquarium.

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22 54. (New) Apparatus for use in draining, cleaning and refilling
23 an aquarium tank having a tank floor covered with gravel to a
24 predetermined depth comprising:

25 a) an elongated flexible hose having first and
26 second opposite ends;

27 b) a tube including an upper distal end for connec-
28 tion to said first end of said flexible hose, and a lower

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1 distal end adapted to be immersed in the aquarium tank
2 such that said lower end may be placed near the gravel,
3 said hose and said tube of such length to allow said
4 second flexible hose end to be placed below the level of
5 water in the tank and a partial vacuum to be started to
6 create a natural siphon action to create a flow of water
7 from the tank through said tube and through said flexible
8 hose;

9 c) a water pump, including a pump inlet for connec-
10 tion to said flexible hose second end, for drawing water
11 through said hose out of the tank;

12 d) a grille, covering said lower distal end of said
13 tube, and including a chamber surrounded by three-dimen-
14 sional tooth-shaped lattices having screens covering said
15 lattices, said screens having a plurality of apertures
16 formed therethrough that are narrower than the width of
17 the gravel particles covering the floor of the aquarium,
18 said grille arranged for contact with the gravel for
19 moving the gravel about the floor of the tank such that
20 the gravel particles are forced by said movement to bump
21 and rub against each other outside said tube to dislodge
22 the sediment and impurities that have gathered therewith,
23 and wherein said sediment and impurities are swept by said
24 water flow through said apertures into said chamber, up
25 said tube and through said hose for discard without the
26 entrance of gravel into said tube or hose; and,

27 e) wherein at least one of said lattices being of
28 a height greater than the depth of the floor-covering